

## **Application Information for 2007 Sister City Trip to Tsukuba, Japan**

The Milpitas Sister Cities Commission is accepting applications from middle school students and adults interested in participating in the annual visit to Milpitas' sister city, Tsukuba, Japan, located about 50 miles northeast of Tokyo. The delegation will depart on 18 June and return 26 June 2007.

Eight students may be selected for this trip along with up to two adults. The student applicants must be Milpitas residents in the seventh through ninth grades and between the ages of 13 and 15. They may attend public, private or religious schools or be home schooled. The adults must either reside, own a business or be employed in Milpitas and be 18 years or older.

During the visit the students will stay in the homes of their Japanese host families and have the opportunity to participate in individual family activities plus planned group cultural, ceremonial and sightseeing events. Some of the group activities previously enjoyed have included a tour of Tokyo, a river cruise, a visit to Mt. Fuji, a ride on the bullet train, making buckwheat noodles from scratch and a middle school visit.

Student lodging and home meals will be provided by the host family, however all other expenses are the responsibility of the student. The total cost, including airfare, for the 2006 trip was \$1,200.

Adults will have a choice of staying at a Tsukuba City owned lodge or at a local hotel. There is also the possibility of a one or two night home stay. The total, including airfare, for the 2006 trip was \$1,600.

Once accepted there are no guaranteed refunds for airfare and travel costs. A passport is required and may be applied for at the Milpitas City Hall. Japan does not require American citizens to obtain a visa for short visits.

Also families sending a student are expected to host a Tsukuba student during their visit to Milpitas, tentatively set for early August 2007.

Applications are available at the administration offices of the Thomas Russell Middle School, the Rancho Milpitas Middle School, St. John the Baptist Catholic School, the Rainbow Bridge School and on the Milpitas City web sites at [www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov](http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov). From the Milpitas Home Page select Government, Commissions, Sister Cities and Trip Application Tsukuba. You may also contact Commissioner Echo Arthur at (408) 262-5169 for additional information and application forms. Application must be returned to the respective school office or to the Milpitas city Hall not later than March 5, 2007.

